FROM THE BOOKSHELF NO. 152 AUGUST 3, 1976
FRANK M. FEINBERG

ADLAI STEVENSON OF ILLINOIS BY JOHN BARTLOW MARTIN

ANNCR: THE VOICE OF AMERICA BRINGS YOU ANOTHER IN THE WEEKLY SERIES, FROM THE BOOKSHELF -- A SERIES IN WHICH WE REPORT ON BOOKS AMERICANS ARE READING. TODAY'S BOOK IS ADLAI STEVENSON OF ILLINOIS BY JOHN BARTLOW MARTIN, PUBLISHED BY DOUBLEDAY. HERE NOW IS BOOK EDITOR----------.

EDITOR: AT INTERVALS IN AMERICAN HISTORY POLITICS HAS BEEN ELEVATED BY A PERSONALITY WHO ARTICULATED AN IDEAL OR A VISION, WHOSE WORDS LIFTED THE IMAGINATION OF PEOPLE ABOVE THEIR DAILY ROUTINES, AND INSPIRED THEIR THOUGHTS TO SOMETHING HIGHER THAN THEMSELVES. SUCH A MAN WAS ADLAI STEVENSON -- A DISTINGUISHED GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, TWICE A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, AN HONORED AMBASSADOR AT THE UNITED NATIONS, A STATESMAN RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

AS AUTHOR MARTIN SAYS:

VOICE: "IT IS TRUE THAT STEVENSON ELEVATED THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE, THAT HE STIRRED NEW INTEREST, THAT HE CARRIED POLITICAL DEBATE TO NEW HEIGHTS NOT ONLY OF ELOQUENCE, BUT OF RESPONSIBILITY."

EDITOR: ADLAI STEVENSON WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL IN AMERICA'S POLITICAL HISTORY. HE RAN FOR THE PRESIDENCY TWICE -- IN 1952 AND 1956 -- AND LOST BOTH TIMES. AND YET HE IS PERHAPS AS IMPORTANT TO THE EVENTS OF HIS TIMES AS ANY OTHER FIGURE IN U.S. PUBLIC LIFE -- SOME WOULD SAY MORE SO.

EDITOR: (CONT'D) MANY AN AMERICAN WHO VOTED FOR REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT DWIGHT EISENHOWER -- HE DEFEATED ADLAI STEVENSON TWICE -- NONETHELES SAT ENTHRALLED THROUGH DEMOCRAT STEVENSON'S SPEECHES. HE ARTICULATED WHAT MANY CONSIDERED THE BEST IN AMERICAN TRADITION AND THOUGHT AND SPIRIT. BIOGRAPHER MARTIN SAYS:

VOICE: "HE CREATED THE IMAGE OF SOMETHING NEW, FINE AND EXCITING. ADLAI STEVENSON WON WIDESPREAD RESPECT AND RESPONSE BECAUSE OF THE HIGH INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL STANDARDS OF HIS CAMPAIGNS...HE ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS A GREAT NATIONAL LEADER -- GALLANT AND HONORABLE AND DEDICATED."

EDITOR: JOHN BARTLOW MARTIN, BIOGRAPHER OF ADLAI STEVENSON OF ILLINOIS, IS A DISTINGUISHED JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR. HE WAS A SPEECHWRITER AND ADVISER TO MISTER STEVENSON AND WAS A PPESIDENTIAL ENVOY FOR BOTH JOHN KENNEDY AND LYNDON JOHNSON. HE WAS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FROM 1952 TO 1954.

AUTHOR MARTIN'S BIOGRAPHY IS WELL RESEARCHED, WELL DOCUMENTED, COMPENDIOUS -- EIGHT-HUNDRED PAGES -- AND IN MOST WAYS SATISFYING. HE WAS GIVEN A REMARKABLY FREE HAND BY THE STEVENSON FAMILY TO RESEARCH PERSONAL PAPERS. THE BOOK HAS MANY CANDID FACTS: ADLAI STEVENSON'S PAROCHIAL MIDWEST BACKGROUND, HIS INITIAL SNOBBERIES AND GRADUAL SLOUGHING OF THEM, HIS LAW CAREER, HIS UNHAPPY MARRIAGE, HIS POLITICAL EMERGENCE TO CIVIC, STATE AND THEN NATIONAL PROMINENCE.

IN WRITER MARTIN'S WORDS:

VOICE: "HE CONTINUED TO GROW ALL HIS LIFE...I LIKED HIM BEFORE I WORKED ON THE BOOK, BUT AFTER IT WAS DONE, I ADMIRED HIM ALL THE MORE, BECAUSE I KNEW WHAT HE HAD GONE THROUGH."

EDITOR: MISTER MARTIN'S BIOGRAPHY DETAILS STEVENSON'S WARTS AND FLAWS, ALONG WITH THE VIRTUES. HE WAS TIGHT WITH MONEY. HE LEARNED TO MANIPULATE PEOPLE. HE WAS A COMPULSIVE ROLE-PLAYER, PRESENTING HIMSELF TO BOTH FRIENDS AND THE WORLD AS HE LIKED TO BELIEVE THAT HE WAS. YET, HE BECAME TO MANY AMERICANS...AND TO ADMIRERS WORLD-WIDE A VOICE OF DECENCY CRYING OUT IN A WILDERNESS OF CYNICISM AND SELFISHNESS. THIS WAS THE MAN WHO SAID: "THE ORDEAL OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY IS FAR FROM OVER. THE VICTORY TO BE WON IS ONE OVER IGNORANCE AND MISTRUST. THEY ARE, MY FRIENDS, WALLS THAT MUST BE DIRECTLY STORMED BY THE HOSTS OF COURAGE, OF MORALITY AND OF VISION..."

ANNCR: YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO A REPORT ON ADLAI STEVENSON OF ILLINOIS BY JOHN BARTLOW MARTIN, A BIOGRAPHY OF A SPOKESMAN FOR AMERICAN IDEALISM. AND NOW, AN INVITATION TO JOIN US NEXT WEEK AT THE SAME TIME WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA WILL BRING YOU ANOTHER REPORT ON A BOOK AMERICANS ARE CHOOSING...FROM THE BOOKSHELF. THIS IS----------.

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